

—not one of the beatitudes of the Sermon on the Mount  
—against which they have not blasphemed.”

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“In conclusion, may I say to you, Mr. Churchill: To us, you are the personification of Britain in this, her greatest hour. Your noble words, your high courage, your inflexible resolve, have been an inspiration and a tower of strength.

“Our citizens, English-speaking and French-speaking alike, and all who have come to us from other lands, hail you as the captain of the great host of free men. Your gallant leadership is marshalling the forces of freedom throughout the world.

“May God continue to give to you the strength, the vision and the wisdom so greatly needed in so great a task.”

### HITLERISM MUST BE DESTROYED.

That the destruction of Hitlerism must remain our first war aim was emphasised by Lord Halifax, the British Ambassador to the United States, at a luncheon after he had received the degree of Doctor of Laws from Columbia University, says Reuter.

“We all face,” Lord Halifax said, “the melancholy fact that after 40 centuries of civilisation the German nation, at the bidding of one unscrupulous man, has decided to settle its dispute with the free nations of the world in the same way as did its ancestors in the Stone Age.

“This is why the destruction of Hitlerism and all it stands for must remain our first war aim, for there is no hope otherwise of recovery.”

### POST-WAR CO-OPERATION.

Lord Halifax declared that the best minds of America and the British Commonwealth should find the means of working closely together “upon the political, financial and economic problems that must be faced and solved in the post-war period, as there is little hope for the world’s future unless your people and ours can join hands to build it.

“For us,” added Lord Halifax, “there can be no turning back, for we know that for our bodies, as for our souls, the only alternative to victory is slavery worse than death.

“You, too, have made it plain on which side you stand. I can have no shadow of doubt that together we can save the cause which we have made our own.”

### HIGHER PAY FOR NAVAL NURSING SERVICE.

The Board of Admiralty announces that the increased rates of pay recently introduced for Army and Air Force nurses have now been extended to the Naval Nursing Service, with effect from April 1. The new annual rates are: Nursing sisters, £95; reserve nursing sisters, £105. Higher rates will be allowed for sisters who possess approved nursing experience of three years or more, as follows: Three years, £110; six years, £115; nine years, £120.

These are very moderate salaries for Sisters in Royal Nursing Services, and we hope to see them raised before long.

### THE TECHNIQUE OF MAKING BACTERIOLOGICAL CULTURES.

By JOHN HATCHER.

While the culturing of specimens for bacteriological examination is usually done in the laboratory, at certain times it may be desirable for the War Staff to inoculate the cultures, as, for example, during the night and at other times when the Laboratory Staff may not be available, though it is interesting to note that since the war it has become the practice in many hospitals, including the writer’s, to work a 24-hour laboratory service. For this work the equipment required is very simple, merely a spirit lamp, platinum loop, culture medium, microscope slides, throat swabs, and, of course, access to a bacteriological incubator.

#### Culture Medium.

A large variety of different types of culture medium has been evolved, some of it selective in action—that is to say, favourable to the growth of particular organisms and inhibitory to others. In the main, however, culture medium may be divided into two principal classes: fluid and solid. The ingredients of the different mediums are extremely varied, depending upon the type of organisms it is desired to grow or, alternatively, inhibit, but the basis of much is beef broth with often the addition of an enriching substance such as blood. Solidification is usually achieved by the addition of a substance known as agar, though for special purposes gelatine may be employed.

#### Collection of Specimens.

The collection of specimens and inoculation of the medium is quite simple, and though it varies somewhat with the nature of the specimen, certain general principles always apply. Firstly, every effort must be made to avoid contamination by extraneous organisms. If the platinum loop is used it must be sterilised by heating to a red heat in the spirit lamp both before and after use; incidentally, it is important to remember that it should be allowed a second or so to cool before use, otherwise the organisms may be killed. Don’t unnecessarily expose the medium to contamination by working in front of an open window or removing the covers of the plates before use. If the medium is supplied in plugged tubes, do not lay the plugs down while inoculating the medium, hold them between the backs of the fingers below the knuckles with the bottom of the plugs outwards, or if this is too difficult, and it requires a little practice, place them in a sterile bowl. If the medium is supplied in glass plates, called petri dishes, remember to put them in the incubator upside down, otherwise moisture will condense on the upper surface and leak out—both a possible source of infection and very bad for the medium through causing excessive drying.

#### Throat Swabs.

Usually the essential point in urgent throat swabs is the isolation of the *B. diphtheria*, Löffler’s serum is the medium required, and this medium is put up in “slope” form usually in test tubes or a small wide-necked bottle with a screw-on metal lid. All that is required is that after the swab has been taken it must be rubbed gently over the surface of the medium.

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